

EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000
By CLKP NARA Date 3/24/98



Department of State TELEGRAM

~~SECRET~~ 672

ACTION COPY

*Lagos 10757
12-17-69*

PAGE 01 LAGOS 10757 171028Z

16
ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /046 W 052612

O 171108Z DEC 69 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 421

~~SECRET~~ LAGOS 10757

EXDIS

S/S PASS ADDIS ABABA, LONDON, PARIS AND USUN

FOR UNDER SECRETARY

REF: STATE 208132 - USUN

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

1. ARIKPO RECEIVED ME AT 10:00 A. M. THIS MORNING JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AT DODAN BARRACKS. HE READ YOUR MESSAGE WITH CARE AND ASKED THAT YOU BE INFORMED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED THE POINTS YOU MADE AND WOULD BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF GENERAL GOWON. HE PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO SAY WITH GREAT FIRMNESS THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT OJUKWU DID NOT INTEND TO CARRY ON SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE TIME HAD COME TO PUT AN END TO "PROPAGANDA EXERCISES." THE FMG HAD ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE EMPEROR'S INTENTIONS. "IF HE REPLIES THAT THE TALKS ARE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE OAU, WE WILL GO; IF NOT, WE WON'T. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT. WE WILL NOT CAPITULATE TO OJUKWU." I SAID THAT WE DID NOT SEE IT AS A QUESTION OF CAPITULATION BUT RATHER ONE OF MAINTAINING A PUBLIC STANCE WHICH WOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE FINE POINTS. ARIKPO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS OUR VIEW BUT THAT THE FMG HAD A DUTY TO ITSELF AND TO ITS FRIENDS IN THE OAU TO UPHOLD THE POSITION OF THAT ORGANIZATION.

2. WITH ARIKPO MAKING OBVIOUS SIGNS OF COLLECTING HIS PAPERS TO HEAD FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE DISCUSSION, BUT I VERY

①

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~

